

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/954,494
Amendment E AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW
Attorney Docket: 3863.015

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a homogeneous solution by incorporating into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;
- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 40-80%.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein incorporating comprises dissolving the anesthetic in lipophilic base into a volatile solvent.

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/954,494

Amendment E AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Attorney Docket: 3863.015

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anesthetic is lidocaine.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said volatile solvent is an alcohol.

5. (cancel)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein evaporating is carried out until less than 1 wt% of the volatile solvent remains in the solution.

7. (cancel)

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the anesthetic further comprises a thickener and an emulsifier.

9. (Previously presented) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprises the steps of:

- a) mixing from about 40-80% of alcohol with a mixture containing:
 - from about 3-40% of lidocaine dissolved;
 - from about 0.5 to about 2.0%, preferably about 1.5% thickener;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/954,494

Amendment E AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Attorney Docket: 3863.015

from about 0.5 to about 2.0%, preferably about 1.5% emulsifier; and

the balance being a lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti_Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;

- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein said topical anesthetic rapidly penetrates the skin surface at said skin.

10. (Original) A method of topically anesthetizing an area of the skin, the method comprising topically administering a formulation containing an effective amount of a topical anesthetic dissolved in an effective amount of a volatile penetration enhancer, wherein the volatile penetration enhancer evaporates from the skin; and wherein said topical anesthetic rapidly penetrates the skin surface at said skin leaving a cool sensation on the skin.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said volatile penetration enhancing agent is an alcohol.

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/954,494
Amendment E AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW
Attorney Docket: 3863.015

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said volatile penetration enhancing agent is isopropyl alcohol.

13. (Previously presented) A method of obtaining topical anesthesia in mammals by way of topical application, said method comprising administering a formulation comprising a mixture of lidocaine in a lipophilic base dissolved in 40-80% alcohol, wherein the lipophilic base is selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP.

14. (Previously presented) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a homogeneous solution by incorporating into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;
- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/954,494

Amendment E AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Attorney Docket: 3863.015

solution;

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 40-80%

wherein the anesthetic is a eutetic mixture of lidocaine and prilocaine.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said volatile solvent is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol and denatured ethyl alcohol.

16. (Currently amended) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a homogeneous solution by incorporating into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;
- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/954,494
Amendment E AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW
Attorney Docket: 3863.015

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 60 67-80%.

17. (New) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a homogeneous solution by dissolving into a volatile solvent an anesthetic in a lipophilic base, the lipophilic base selected from the group consisting of White Ointment USP, Yellow Ointment NF, Oleic Acid USP, Olive Oil USP, Paraffin USP, Petrolatum NF, White Petrolatum USP, Spermaceti Wax USP, Synthetic Spermaceti NF, Starch Glycerite NF, White Wax USP, and Yellow Wax USP;
- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 67-80%.

wherein the homogenous solution includes

from about 40-80% of the volatile solvent;
from about 3-40% of the anesthetic;
from about 0.5 to about 2.0 of a thickener;
from about 0.5 to about 2.0 of an emulsifier; and
the balance being the lipophilic base.